

## WATER COMMUNITY



Open water that occurs in San Diego county is mostly the result of man-made dams. There were few natural lakes in this County in prehistoric times. Notable ones are the Laguna Lakes on Mount Laguna, and a small, swampy lake area in the vicinity where Cuyamaca Lake currently exists. There are indications that Lindo Lake in Lakeside also occurred *naturally*.

Over the years there have been small ponds created in the Sand Diego County backcountry for agricultural and recreational purposes. Many of the drinking water water reservoirs that occur within the County have become habitat for aquatic wildlife, especially bird species. Western grebes breed at Sweetwater Reservoir, and Lake Hodges is used as foraging habitat for a number of birds including terns and gulls. Several species of ducks also inhabit reservoirs and ponds in San Diego County. Herons and egrets nest in the vicinity of several of the County reservoirs. Reservoirs in the mountainous regions of the County (Lake Henshaw and Lake Morena), are used as winter foraging areas by Bald eagles. Additionally, small water areas exist along stream courses.



Courtesy of the County of San Diego  
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